REFLECTIONS

UPON THE

EAST-INDY

AND

Royal *AFRICAN*

COMPANIES

WITH

Animadverſions, concerning the Naturalization of Foreigners.

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CHAP. I.

Reflections upon the East-Indy *COMPANY.*

MOnopolies are the moſt wicked, tyrannical and injurious Uſurpations over other Men, and the greateſt Violations of the Law of Nature, of any other, and are ſo much worſe than Robbery, by how much the Quality of them is worſe, and the Extent farther. A *Monopoly*, is the arrogating a Power of Working or Trading, by one Man, or Company of Men, excluſive to all other: Here conſider, that all Men are born naked, and the generality of Mankind have nothing but their Labour, Induſtry and Ingenuity (I do not mean undue Craft and Deceit) to Feed, Cloath and Provide themſelves an Habitation with; and therefore for one Man, or Company of Men, to impoſe upon all others beſides themſelves, a *Negative* of not Working or Trading, infinitely reſolves into all others, who, if this Reſtriction had not been, might have not only ſubſiſted in theſe Trades and Imployments, but alſo have enlarged and improved them by their Induſtry and Ingenuity; for all Arts are infinitely improvable, and one Man in the preſent Time, and another in future Generations, may proceed further in any Art than was known or

underſtood in former Ages, which will be loſt, if this Man ſhall be Excluded from having any benefit of it, or be puniſhed for working in it.

If one Man, or Company of Men, rob another, or more Men, this extends no farther than the Loſs of what theſe were robbed, which it may be is eaſily Repairable: But for any Man, or Company of Men, to arrogate to themſelves a Power of Robbing all others in thoſe Imployments, which they Aſcribe to themſelves, for ever Ruins multitudes of Men and Families, which might have been imployed in them: And let any Prince conſider the conſequence of Granting *Monopolies* to his Subjects; for if any of his Subjects, which might have been imployed, if the Imployments and Trades had been free, ſhall, to ſupply their Neceſſities, Steal or Beg; the ſame Prince hangs and puniſhes theſe poor People for not Working, when before he had given others a Power to puniſh them, in caſe they did Work.

Nor are theſe *Monopolies* leſs impolitick than wicked and injurious; for the greateſt Benefit which any Country or Kingdom enjoys, is by the Imployment of the Inhabitants, which being reſtrained to a few, the reſidue become a Burden to that Country to maintain them, and theſe alſo become dangerous to that Country for want of Imployment: From whence it follows, that they muſt either ſeek unlawful Means to ſubſiſt, or flee into other Countries to get Subſiſtance there, which was denied them here, and this will be in double proportion, as much to the Benefit of that Country, as a Loſs to this. Beſides, *Monopolies*, I ſay, are injurious to the reſt of the Inhabitants of the Kingdom and Country within, and to the Vent

of

of the foreign Trade of them; for by their Reſtraint, the Inhabitants ſhall pay dearer for worſe Commodities, than if the Trade were free; and being dearer and worſe than in other Countries, enables the Inhabitants of thoſe Countries to vend theſe in foreign Parts, whilſt theſe are neceſſitated to be conſumed at Home.

Objection.

If any finds out a new Invention beneficial to the Country, in any Myſtery (which he could not have done, in caſe he had been reſtrained from working in it) the King, by Act of Parliament, may grant him the ſole uſe of it for 14 Years.

Anſwer.

But then where there is no Myſtery for the benefit of the Subject found out, the King can grant no Patent, or *Monopoly* for any other, or the Law had been in vain, if the King could have granted ſuch Patent without it.

'Tis true, that it is great Wiſdom in any King and State, to give all due Encouragement for improving any Art or Myſtery beneficial for the Country; but this of Granting a Patent for the ſole Uſe of it for Fourteen Years, is of all other the worſt, and will be of little Uſe to the Country; whilſt the Inhabitants of other Countries, will have manifoldly more Advantages by it: For when this Myſtery ſhall be practiſed, it will neceſſarily be known to others, be-

ſides the firſt Projectors, and ſo cannot be contained in the limits of that Country; and when this ſhall be known in other Countries, where the Working it ſhall be free, this will be ſo much cheaper Wrought and Vended, than where it is more reſtrained; and therefore I have heard that the *Dutch* (who are Wiſe in their Generation) will give Noble Rewards to any who ſhall find out any New beneficial Myſtery, but then they will permit the Uſe of it to be free.

King *James* the Firſt, in the firſt Year of his Reign, *viz. May* 7. 1603, iſſues out a Proclamation, calling in ſeveral *Monopolies*; and in his Speech at the opening the firſt Parliament of his Reign, exclaimed mightily againſt them; and in the ſecond Year made Peace with *Spain*, whereby the *Engliſh* ſolely (the *Dutch* then being at War with *Spain*) enjoyed a more beneficial and enriching Trade than any other.

But the King had no ſooner made this Peace notwithſtanding his Proclamation and Speech in Parliament, but he Incorporated the *Spaniſh* Trade exclusive to others; which the Wiſdom of Parliament, in that celebrated Law 3. *Jac. c.* 6. made free for theſe Reaſons.

1. For that Trade is a Nationall Intereſt, and the Support of the Nation, is to be upon a Publick Account; and therefore the Incorporating the *Spaniſh* Trade, to a few, enfeebled the Publick Support of the Nation.

2. It would ruine infinite Numbers of Artificers, whoſe Labours would be maintained, if the Trade ſhould be free, which could not be if it were reſtrained to a few, and theſe would have a Prerogative of giving

giving what Prizes they pleaſed unto poor Artificers, otherwiſe they ſhould not be imployed.

3. The Incorporating this Trade, would reſtrain the Navigation of the Nation; to the manifold ruin of many mariners, which otherwiſe might be imployed in it, and alſo multitudes of Ship-wrights, and Ship-Carpenters, which may be imployed in it.

4. The Incorporating this Company, would cauſe a Dearneſs upon all ſorts of Commodities returned in this Trade, the Corporation being hereby enabled to ſet what Prizes they pleaſed upon them, otherwiſe none could be had.

5. The Incorporating this Trade, would ſo much more leſſen the King's Revenues by Cuſtoms, as the Trade hereby ſhould be diminiſhed; and all theſe Reaſons are as ſtrong againſt all other Companies which trade excluſive to other men, whether it be to *Hamburg*, *Muſcovey*, or to the Countries and Kingdoms within the *Sound*, as in the *Spaniſh* Trade; and, I ſay, it was this moſt beneficial Law which has enabled this Nation to continue the *Spaniſh* Trade to this day, whilſt it hath loſt thoſe.

And if this King were ſo looſe of his Royal Word, almoſt ſo ſoon as he made it, it cannot be doubted, but that he will be more conſtant of it afterward; for in the Parliament, in the Eighteenth Year of his Reign, no leſs than 37 *Monopolies* were Voted Grievances, and damned; and as the Father laid the Foundation, ſo his Son built upon it; for in the Year 1640. when King *Charles* marched to *York* againſt the *Scots*, who then had Invaded *England*, upon the the Complaint of the Northern Gentry, he recalled by Proclamation thirty one Monopolies; and then decla-

red he did not know how Greivous they were to his ſubjects, becauſe he was Governed by ſuch (I cannot ſay) Counſels, that no man durſt before complain of them.

From *Monopolies* granted by theſe two Kings, we proceed to that of *Oliver Cromwel*, in his erecting this now *Eaſt-Indy* Company, *An.* 1657. to Trade to the *Eaſt Indies*, excluſive to all others of the Nation; but before a further view be taken of this Patent, its fit to ſee the Extent of it, under the Title of the *Eaſt Indies*, and if I miſtake in it, it is in the power of the Company to correct me.

Their Patent extends from *Cape Bon Sperance*, to the North of *China*, taking in the Eaſtern Coaſt of *Africk*, and all the Southern Coaſt of *Aſia*, with the Eaſtern Coaſt of *China*; together with all the Iſlands which lie between the Cape of *Good Hope*, and the North of *China*, which I ſay is more, if you compute the Coaſt on both ſides of the *Red Sea*, and the Gulph of *Perſia*, than half the circumference of the Globe of the Earth; and that their Power may be as unlimited, as the Extent of their Dominion, they doubly impoſe an Oath upon every Member, to be true to the Company: How *Oliver* was endued with ſuch a Prerogative, needs not be diſputed, becauſe he would have his Will to be Law; but I do not find any King of *England*, ever aſſumed ſuch a Power, nor any other, but the Convocation, which impoſed the Oath *Ex Officio*, without Conſent in Parliament, *An.* 1640.

However *Oliver* would, in his Zeal, have the Pope to be Anti-Chriſt in exalting himſelf above God, and in diſpoſing the Kingdoms upon Earth, wherein the

Pope

Pope and he were *Simeon* and *Levy*; but herein the Pope and he differed: The Pope would have all his own Tribe to Partake of his Bleſſings; whereas *Oliver*, by this Patent, excluded all the reſt of the *Engliſh* Nation in this Trade, but permitted the *Dutch*, *French*, *Portugueſe*, *Hamburgers*, &c. to Trade in it, It may be, becauſe he could not help it; yet I do not find he, or his Company, ever made War upon them for ſo doing, though his Company has upon the reſt of the *Engliſh* Nation, and that with ſuch Barbarity, as was never Practiſed, by *Turks*, *Jews*, or any other *Infidels* upon them; Its too long to recite them here, this Parliament has heard thereof ſufficiently; and are particularly ſet forth by Mr. *White*, in his *Account of the Trade to the* Eaſt Indies.

But though the Company have not been pleaſed to make War upon any other Nation but the *Engliſh*, for Trading to the *Eaſt Indies*; yet they were pleaſed to make War, without any Declaration, or Cauſe, upon the King of *Syam*, and the *Mogull*; and rob the *Mogul's* Subjects to carry on the War, as Mr. *White* Obſerves, and whileſt the Company have thus rent themſelves from the reſt of the *Engliſh* Nation, they patiently ſubmit to the *Dutch* in forcing *Poloroon* from them, cauſed by their own neglect and avarice; from which the *Dutch* are become the ſole Proprietors in the *Spice Trade*; and alſo from the Trade to *Bantam* for Pepper, whereby they are forced to Trade for it to the moſt unhealthful parts of *Sumatra*, (which Queen *Elizabeth* forbid) whereby we loſe more *Engliſh* Men than the Trade is worth, which is little regarded by this Company; and whileſt they are making their Cauſeleſs Wars, upon the King

of *Syam* and the *Mogul* they permit the *Sophy* of *Perſia*, whoſe Predeceſſor *An.* 1621. granted the *Engliſh* the half Duties of all Nations, Trading into the Gulph of *Perſia*; and which in the year 1672 came to 80000 *l. per An.* (I would know by what Right this Company Claim theſe) to reduce them to 3000 *l. per An.* And is it not ſtrange this Company ſhould exclude the reſt of the Nation from trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, becauſe of the Charges of their Forts; and yet for 15 years receive more from the *Sophy* of *Perſia*, than the value of the Stock they traded thither with.

For the further Frauds which this *Company* exerciſes over the reſt of the Nation, in the Returns of Commodities from the *Eaſt Indies*; and how being a *Monopoly* in the whole, they Monopolize the Sales by private Contract among themſelves, to the farther Grievance of the Subject. I referr the Reader to Mr. *White's Account of the Eaſt Indy* Trade, too long to be here inſerted.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Reflections upon the Royal African COMPANY.

AS *Oliver* eſtabliſhed this preſent *Eaſt Indy* Company, and excluded the reſt of the Nation from trading into that half of the World, which the Company call the *Eaſt Indies*; So King *Charles* the 2*d.* erected this preſent *African* Company, excluding all others of the *Engliſh* Nation from trading to *Africa*, from the Country of *Suſa*, to the Cape of *Good-Hope*; ſo that if you take the extent of this part of the Coaſt of *Africk*, its little leſs than a Quadrant of the Globe, being above 80 Degrees; ſo that the prerogative which theſe two Companies claim againſt the reſt of their fellow Subjects in theſe two Trades, extend to two thirds of the circumference of the Globe of the earth, and herein both are at peace with all the world beſides, and only in a ſtate of War with the reſt of their fellow Subjects, in Caſe any of them preſume to trade to either. Here let's ſee firſt the Conſequences of this Reſtraint, upon the Nation in the foreign vent of our domeſtick manufactures: Secondly, in reference to our *American* Plantations; and Thirdly, in reference to the returns, which this Company imports into

England from that part of *Africa*, wherein they Trade,

I am not ſure of the Companies Patent for this Trade, they know better, nor will I take notice how far the export of our woollen manufactures have been reſtrained in other Countries of *England*, I ſhall only take notice of it from the County of *Suffolk*: Before this *African* Company was Incorporated, the Cloathiers in *Suffolk* yearly vended 25000 Cloths to *Africa*, but about two years after this Company were Incorporated, the Clothiers in *Suffolk*, as they did before, endeavoured to have vented their Cloths in the *African* Trade, but they were not permitted, and the Company would take off but 500, and thoſe at ſcarce half the Prizes they were ſold before: Hereupon both the Great Inqueſt of *Suffolk* (the *Guildalle*, and the *Franchiſe* of *Bury*) at their next Aſſizes, preſented this as a Grievance; and Imployed Sir *Jervais Elvais* (who is now Knight of the ſhire for *Suffolk*) and ſome others, to repreſent this to the King and Council; but the Duke of *York* being preſident of this Company, no Redreſs could be had; and ſo the Caſe now ſtands at this day. So it is ſubmitted to the Wiſdom of Parliament, whether this Exaction by this Company, be not the ruine of many Multitudes of Poor *Engliſh* Artificers; and gives the Imployment in them, as well as Navigation to *Africk* with theſe, to the *Dutch* and other Nations.

I am aſſured that this Company (and the Parliament may Inquire into the Truth of it) after it was Erected, carried it ſo that the Planters in our *American* Plantations, were not permitted to

Buy

Buy *Negroes* but of the Company, and the Planters must buy only such as the Company would sell, and at the Price of 30 *l. per Cent.* more than they did before: so this is submitted to judgment, whether this will not resolve into a dearness of all the Products of our *American* Plantations, and thereby enable both the *French* and *Dutch*, who are Competitors with us in these Trades, to the Endangering the Loss of them, so far as either *French* or *Dutch* shall carry on Theirs in Competition with us.

The Returns into *England* from *Africk* are principally *Gold-dust*, which is so much less as the restraint by the Company is more. *Elephant's Teeth* and *Bees-wax*, I say nothing of *Bees-wax*, but I say the Company raised the price of *Elephant's Teeth* so high, that the *Dutch* could bring them in cheaper, and so work the Manufactures of them cheaper than the poor *English* could work them; and this being a Manufacture of *Holland*, the *Dutch* by the *Act of Navigation* may Import them.

Hereupon several of our Artificers in *Ivory*, for several Years, I'll name two of them, Mr. *Jole* in the *Old Baily*, and Mr. *Tanner* in *Coleman-street*, were necessitated to go into *Holland*, and work them there, and then bring the Manufactures into *England*; and whether this be not a grievous tyranny of this Company over multitudes of poor Artificers in *Ivory*, is submitted to Judgment: Yet this, as well as the *East Indy* Company, have the Confidence to petition the Parliament, to have this abominable Tyrannies over the rest of their fellow Subjects, to be Established by a Law.

As these two Companies are *Simeon* and *Levi* in their Wickednesses over the rest of their fellow Subjects, in the Exercise of their Dominion, so are their Pretences the same for their so doing, *viz.*

First, That these Trades cannot be managed but by a *Joint Stock*, to the excluding the rest of the *English* Nation, which is a Lye diametrically to their Practice; for then Interlopers could not Trade in either, which, above all others, they persecute, by seizing their Ships and Cargoes, and Imprisoning their Persons; and its Well they escape so.

The *Second* is, That they are at great Charges in erecting Forts, for securing these Trades: If they have any such Forts, as the *East Indy*, the Fort of St. *George*, and another at *Bombay*, for which they pay Ten Pounds a Year to the Crown; yet I fear the *African* Company have not the same Plea, now the *French* took from them their Fort this last Summer, at one of the Mouths of *Gambo*; but the Fort St. *George*, and that at *Bombay* are of no use in the *Indian* Trade, being quite out of the way; and if they be of use to the Company, is this a Reason that no *English* but themselves shall Trade to near half the known World. The *Zealanders* have built a Fort, in the *Scheld* called *Lillo*, whereby they restrain all other Nations, but the *Dutch*, from Trading to *Flanders* and *Brabant*, &c. Yet sure it would be a strange Impudence in the *Zealanders*, to forbid the rest of the Inhabitants of the *United Netherlands* to Trade to any part of the World, because they have erected a Fort in the *Scheld* called *Lillo*; yet they

they may do this, as well as these Companies forbid all the other *English* to Trade to *Africk* and the *East Indies*, because one Company has Fort St. *George*, and the other a Fort at one of the Mouths of *Gambo*.

But there is a difference between the *Zealanders* and these Companies; for they permit the other *Dutch* to Trade up the *Scheld*, and restrain Foreigners; whereas these Companies permit Foreigners to Trade in the *East Indies* and *Africk*, and only forbid the *English*, upon pretence of their Forts. And sure it is just with God, that these Companies which have thus Rent themselves from the rest of the Nation, and insult over their fellow Subjects, should themselves be Subject to the Insults and Injuries of the *French* and *Dutch*, without any reasonable Prospect of relief from this Nation, so treated by them.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of the State of the Nation, in reference to the Law *against* Foreigners *enjoying the Liberties of the Natives of* England.

THE Glory and Majesty of every Kingdom and Country is founded in the Number of People, and the well Ordering and Governing of them: So that as the Loss of any of the Subjects, is a Diminution of the Grandeur and Strength of that Country, so is the Addition of more Subjects, an Encrease of both; and therefore it is not the greatness of the Extent of a Country which makes it formidable, but the Number, and well Governing of the People: So that though the Kingdoms in *Spain*, Subject to the now King, be one hundred fold greater than the *United Netherlands*; yet these are five fold more formidable by Sea and Land than all those Kingdoms in *Spain*, wherein they cannot Raise an Army to defend *Catalonia* against Thirty Thousand *French*.

And

And as the Strength and Grandeur of every Country is founded in the Number of the Inhabitants, ſo is the Riches and Trade of it, for every Man's Neceſſities is ſupplied by Trade; ſo that though men be poor, and maintained by the Loſs of Particulars, yet in the whole, Trade is encreaſed by it, yet more or leſs, as Men live more or leſs in Society and Converſation; and therefore wherever People are thin, or few, they are poor, lazy, rude, and of little uſe to the Publick, yet a publick Charge: As in *Spain*, it may be the Inhabitants are tenfold more than in *Holland*; yet by Reaſon of the vaſtneſs of *Spain*, the Inhabitants are few and thin in proportion to it, ſo as all the Wealth of the *Weſt-Indies* cannot ſupport the burden of Maintaining them; whereas in *Holland*, where the People are numerous, and daily converſant in Buſineſs, every Man is a benefit to the Country, as well by Strength and Trade.

We have formerly compared the State of *Spain* and *England*, from not unlike Cauſes; for as *Spain's* Expelling the more, and the Inhabitants excurſion into the *Weſt-Indies* has exhauſted the Inhabitance of *Spain*, and the *Inquiſition* debarred it of a Supply; ſo hath the Peopling our *American* Plantations, and the repeopling *Ireland* ſince the Maſſacre, and late Wars, ſo much diſpeopled *England*, as the Peopling them hath been more; and the Law againſt Naturalizing Foreigners as a greater bar for a Supply, than the *Inquiſition* in *Spain*.

As the Law againſt Naturalizing Foreigners, debars the Nation from a Supply for the exhauſting the Nation in peopling *Ireland*, and our *American* Plantations; ſo the Priviledges of Corporations, exclude all the reſt of the Nation, but the Freemen, from Trading in them; whereby theſe Men Ignorant of their own Intereſt, from the poor Eſtate they are thereby reduced to, daily decline to worſe, whereby it becomes impoſſible to encreaſe the Strength and Trade in them beyond the power of theſe men in them.

To ſupply this Defect, the Commons in the third *Weſtminſter*-Parliament, the 3*d*. of *December*, 1680. *Gave Liberty to bring in a Bill for a General Naturalization of all Alien Proteſtants, and allowing them Liberty to Exerciſe their Trades in all Corporations*. So did the Commons laſt Seſſion: And is not there as much Reaſon all Native *Engliſh* ſhould have the ſame Liberty?

But why muſt this Liberty be permitted only to Proteſtant Artificers and Traders? For my part, I underſtand but little Benefit can accrue to the Nation by it, now the *French* King has expelled them out of *France*; for as the Caſe ſtands, *Holland*, *Flanders* and *France* are the places from whence we can expect any benefit by this Liberty: In *Holland*, Artificers and Traders are as free, as they can expect to be in *England*; but in *Flanders*, though they be an induſtrious and honeſt ſort of People, yet they are all Popiſh, and I am confident, if they might enjoy the exerciſe of their Religion in *England*, multitudes of them would ſeek an *Aſilum* here, to be freed from the Inſults they are always ſubject to from the *French*;

French; and its not unlike, but Multitudes would flee from the Tyranny and Oppreſſions of the *French* in their *New Conqueſts*, if they might uſe their Religion here.

The *Engliſh* pretend to love *Engliſh*-men above all others, and it becomes them ſo to do; but in our practiſe, this Love is both partial and unreaſonable; I ſay, it is partial by the Freemen in Corporations, excluding the reſt of their fellow Subjects from working and Trading in them, which is a prime Cauſe of their Poverty; and I ſay, it is unreaſonable to exclude Foreigners from being a Supply for thoſe ſent out of *England*, into our *American* Plantations and *Ireland*: Suppoſe a Man is ſo in love with his Family that he will not imploy any other in managing his Farm whereby half of it lies waſt; Is it not unreaſonable that he will not imploy none of his Neighbours to help him to improve it to the beſt Advantage; or if by Fire or Rapine he cannot by his Family preſerve his Houſe or Goods, yet would it not be prudence in him in ſuch Caſe to make uſe of his Neighbours? Is not the Caſe ours? Have not the *French* and *Dutch* upon the matter got from us all the Fiſheries upon the Coaſts of *England* and *Scotland*, to *Iſeland*, *Weſtmony*, *Greenland*, and the *Newfoundland*; and are our poor Port-towns, by excluding the Natives and all other, in a Condition to Oppoſe them herein, much leſs to retrieve theſe Fiſheries from them?

Suppoſe any one of theſe Corporations ſhould loſe one half, more or leſs, of their Ships and Freight, Would not this be ſo much a Loſs and Weakning to it? Convert the Propoſition, and admit like number of others Ships and Freight, ſhould ſet Up and Trade in that Corporation, Would not this be as much an Enriching and Strengthing to it? And therefore if in this Conjunture of time if it pleaſe God ſo to bleſs his Majeſtys Arms, that the *French* could not, or without great hazard, trade in the *Newfoundland* Fiſhery, and to *Green-land*; and the *French* might more ſurely manage theſe Fiſheries from our Ports, whereby many of the *French* ſhould buy fiſh from our Ports, would be as much a ſtrengthing and Inriching to this Nation, as it would be an impoveriſhing and weakning to the *French*.

If we ſhould permit Foreigners to purchaſe Lands in *England*, the Nation without any hazard would get ſo much Treaſure, as the Purchaſe-money is more, which had it not before, and retain the Lands ſtill, which it had before; and be ſo much more ſtrengthened as the Purchaſers are more; whereas a Merchant in acquiring Wealth, runs hazards of being Undone and gets no new Inhabitants.

Ambitious Princes venter their own Dominions to acquire New by War, and that by Oppreſſion, Rapine, Murder, Deſolation, and making Men miſerable; whereas by permitting Foreigners the Freedom of *Engliſh* Native, we Conquer without a War, run no hazard, and Enrich and ſtrengthen

en the Nation, and all this in double proportion; for so much as the Nation hereby gains, and is strengthned, so much are those, which may be Enemies to us, impoverished and weakned. *Xenophon*, in *Cyropædia*, Says, That by reason of the Goodness and justice of *Cyrus* his Reign many nations became Subject to him, and was *Cyrus* the less Great and Glorious by it? why then should this Law debar the Nation the benefit which it might enjoy by *Naturalizing Foreigners*, whereby the Nation would be so much more enriched and strengthened, as this Admission of these Foreigners shall be more.

Objection.

If we should admit popish Foreigners the Freedom of *English*-Men, it might endanger the Peace of our Church and State.

Answer.

For my Part, if I thought so, I would never Plead for it; for I do as much abhor the popish Superstition, as any Man, and am as fearfull of the Usurpation which the Pope Arrogates over princes, and the Consciences of Men; yet I apprehend no danger of either, by permitting popish Artificers to work and trade in *England*, as well as *Holland*:

land: For it is one thing for popiſh Prieſts and Jeſuits to make it their buſineſs to pervert Men to their Sentiments; and another thing for poor People to make it their buſineſs how to Subſiſt, which will take up their whole time; eſpecially where they are in a ſtrange place, and ſtrangers to the People, unleſs by accident in their Dealings for their ſupport, and alſo to the Language of the People where they live: I would know what inconvenience has followed from permitting *Brewer* in the Year One Thouſand Six hundred and ſixty ſeven, and his Followers, which were all Papiſts, to inſtruct our Natives in making and Dying Fine Cloths; and in all the Tumults and Wars in the late times, after the Year One Thouſand Six hundred and forty, let any ſhew any one Inſtance wherein the *Walloons*, or their Deſcendents, planted in *London Norwich*, *Canterbury* and *Colcheſter*, Contributed to either of them, however they had been provoked thereto by the Biſhops *Laud* and *Wren*. Beſides if theſe Men cannot be prevailed upon in their Perſons to alter their Sentiments in their Religion, their Poſterity may, if our Churchmen will make it their buſineſs.

Can any man believe that all Sciences and Arts, or the improvement of them is circumſcribed within our *Engliſh* Pale; or would it become us, as the *Romans* and *Grecians* did, to eſteem all the World beſides to be barbarous? Or is any Science or Art leſs valuable becauſe found out or improved by a Foreigner? Was *Thucidides* Hiſtory

Hiſtory of the *Peloponeſian* War, or *Plutarch*, *Livy*, or *Thuanus*'s Hiſtories &c. or *Euclid*'s Elements leſs valuable becauſe written by Foreigners? Or was *Chriſtianity* leſs valuable, becauſe it was planted by Foreigners? And I ſay, next after Spiritual Benefits, the honeſt Imployment of Poor People, is it the greateſt Benefit to any Nation: And I ſubmit it to Judgment, whether Religion may not be better improved upon Men in honeſt Callings, than upon idle Perſons who ſubſiſt by Pilfering, Begging, Steal- and Pining.

Edward the Third was the moſt Generous and Nobleſt Prince of the *Norman* Race, and did not he, notwithſtanding the Law againſt Naturalizing Foreigners, and againſt his own Profit, introduce the *Walloons*, who inſtructed the Natives in making Woollen Manufactures? And is this benefit leſs valuable to the *Engliſh* Nation, becauſe it was introduced by Foreigners.

After *Kett's* Rebellion in *Norfolk*, the City of *Norwich* became almoſt deſolate; and in the beginning of Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, it was often debated in Council, whether it ſhould be demoliſhed, as being a Receptacle of vagrant and idle Perſons, and ſo dangerous to the Government. But Queen *Elizabeth* (the moſt Noble Princeſs of the *Britiſh* Race) when the Rage of *Alva*'s Perſecution, drove numbers of the *Flemins* into *England*, Planted them chiefly in *Norwich* and *Colcheſter*, who inſtructed the Natives in making *Norwich* Stuffs, and *Colcheſter* Bays, and are not theſe above all Places in the World become the moſt

most famous hereby? Or are the Benefits less valuable, because the Natives were first instructed in them by Foreigners; So King *Charles* the 2d (as is said before) entertained in the year One Thousand six hundred and Sixty seven, *Brewer* and his followers, who instructed our natives in making and Dying Fine Cloths, Thirty Pounds *per Cent*: cheaper and better than before; and is this improvement less valuable, because the natives were instructed in it by Foreigners? I dare say at this day above an Hundred Thousand people (Men, Women and Children) are imployed in silk weaving and silk throwing in and about *London* and *Canterbury*, which was first taught by Foreigners, are those therefore less valuable? And is not the famous Engineer Sir *Martin Beckman*, a *Brandenburger*? or are the benefits the Nation now enjoys by him less valuable, because he is a Foreigner? or would the benefits which the Nation may reap by Foreigners instructing our natives how to Cure white Herrings, Pilchards and Codfish be less valuable, if they were instructed in them by Foreign people *&c.*

Con-

CONCLUSION.

IF I have but Superficially, yet to the beſt of my Ability, diſcourſed in this little Treatiſe, ſo that the end deſigned by it, be not ſo Manifeſt, but that a better and more intelligent Perſon may make it more; yet it may be a Ground-work for another to do it better; I am ſure the Deſign is Noble the end being the Publick's Good.

I was the rather induced to this Undertaking, becauſe the Circumſtances of the Nation, as the Caſe ſtands, render it very difficult to have the State of it truely repreſented: For the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy and Lawyers, whoſe Intereſt it is to have the Nation and Trade of it encreaſed, whereby the value of the Lands of it, would be ſo proportionably; do not make it their buſineſs to enquire into it; and our *Engliſh* Merchants who underſtand it to be the Intereſt of the Nation to enlarge the Trades of it, yet their Intereſt, eſpecially thoſe which trade by excluding the reſt of the Nation, is to continue the Trades of *England*, as they now ſtand; for thereby they take off the Manufactures of the poor Natives at what prizes they pleaſe, and no more then they pleaſe, whereby the Artificers in them, are not only reduced to Poverty in Working, but cannot be

further imployed than these Merchants please; And also impose what prizes they please upon the Natives in their Returns.

In *Holland* the Interest of the States, is founded in their Trades; and they are generally Merchants which understand it, and sit all the year round, and so no Grievances arise in Trade, but they take notice of them, and Redress them.

Whereas our Parliaments for near eighty years together, have either rarely met, whereby Grievances have been so multiplied and fixed, and so many interested in them, that the body of the Parliament has been Distempered thereby, not only in electing Members, but in their Sessions; so that as the humour of the Times were, Parliaments were continued for near twenty years together, and at other times discontinued above half as long; but its hoped these will be prevented in time to come, and then the Parliament will be at more leisure, and in a better Temper, truely to consider the State of the Nation, in reference to what has been beforesaid.

Nota Bene.

HEre I make an end of these three Heads, and what I have offered, if I mistake not very much, carries its own light with it, and is enough to convince the Unprejudiced: If any think themselves aggrieved or injured hereby, let them object, and expose themselves, as I have done, and

I ſhall either make my Rejoynder, or Comply with their Sentiments: But for the further ſatisfaction of thoſe that are well-wiſhers to their Native Country, and would have it flouriſh in Trade and Navigation, without which it cannot long continue, the Figure it makes at preſent in the world, but muſt daily fall from bad to worſe; I may ſhortly advance ſomething they may approve of, as conducing for the benefit of it, by way of Reply to Sir *Francis Brewſter's* late Book, Entituled, *Eſſays of Trade and Navigation.*

FINIS